Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 153821
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S E C R E T STATE 153821

EXDIS, FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL RPT AMMAN 05305 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAIRO DAMASCUS 15 JUN 78
QUOTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 05305

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, JO, US, XF
SUBJECT: TALK WITH SHARAF--AREA SITUATION

1. I SPOKE WITH COURT CHIEF SHARAF JUNE 14 AND FOUND HIM RELAXED AND INTERESTED IN THE POSSIBLE NEXT MOVES IN THE AREA. HE HAD BEEN FILLED IN EXTENSIVELY BY KING (AS HAD CROWN PRINCE HASSAN) ON MY DISCUSSION WITH KING BASED ON TALKING POINTS PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT (SEPTELS). HE WENT OVER WITH ME IN SOME DETAIL A NUMBER OF THE POINTS WHICH I HAD MADE TO HUSSEIN, BUT IT WAS ESSENTIALLY A REVIEW WITH NO NEW GROUND BROKEN.

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PAGE 02 STATE 153821

2. SHARAF (AS DID MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS IBRAHIM WHOM I HAD SEEN FOR FEW MINUTES JUST BEFORE SEEING SHARAF) TOLD ME THAT NUMEIRI'S CONCILIATION GROUP WAS NOT GOING ANYWHERE. IBRAHIM WOULD GO TO KHARTOUM FOR ANOTHER MEETING SOON BUT EXPECTED NOTHING MUCH WOULD HAPPEN. SHARAF SAID THAT NUMEIRI WAS CLEARLY WORKING CLOSELY WITH SADAT AND WOULD BE HELPING TO BUY TIME FOR

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

SADAT WITH THE OTHER ARABS. IN ADDITION A NUMBER OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP, AND HERE SHARAF CLEARLY INCLUDED JORDAN, WERE PREPARED TO TRY TO HELP SADAT QUIETLY TO FIND HIS OWN WAY TO THE POINT WHERE HE (SADAT) COULD DECIDE ON HIS OWN THAT INITIATIVE HAS FAILED OR SUCCEEDED.

3. SHARAF IS AWARE OF OUR OWN EFFORTS TO DISCOURAGE ARABS FROM INSISTING THAT SADAT NOW BREAK OFF ALL DIRECT CONTACT WITH ISRAEL. HE SAYS HOWEVER THAT THE DIRECT CONTACT PROBLEM HAS BECOME THE ROOT CAUSE OF MUCH OF THE ARAB DIVISION AND UNHAPPINESS OVER THE SADAT INITIATIVE. SHARAF SAID THIS IS A SINE QUO NON WITH SYRIANS--NO MORE DIRECT CONTACT WITH ISRAELIS ON BILATERAL BASIS--WHO HE INDICATED HAD MOVED SOME DISTANCE FROM THEIR FORMER DEEP FEELINGS OVER THE JERUSALEM VISIT. SHARAF INCIDENTALLY CALLED HIMSELF ONE OF THE FEW ARABS WHO BELIEVE THAT THE SADAT INITIATIVE WAS CORRECT AND USEFUL. SHARAF ALSO INDICATED THAT HE SAW NO FURTHER MOVES ON JORDAN'S PART IN THE OFFING TO BRING THE ARABS TOGETHER OR ARRANGE A SUMMIT.
PICKERING

UNQUOTE NEWSOM

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